

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/921,766

Applicant(s)

MORIN ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Martin Lerner

2654

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to After-Final Amendment filed 20 June 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2, 4 to 14, 16 to 24, and 26.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 6/21/04 (Figure 1) and 8/3/01 (Figure 2) are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claim 1, the prior art of record does not disclose or reasonably suggest the combination of populating a license plate number field of a form, separating blocks of text from input utterances by natural speech pauses, and echoing blocks of text back to a speaker. *Takebayashi et al.* discloses populating fields of a form from blocks of text for input utterances, and echoing blocks of text back to a speaker, where recognized words can be values or commands. *Cornelison* suggests an application of speech recognition to license plate numbers and letters. However, the combination of *Takebayashi et al.* and *Cornelison* still omits separating blocks of text from input utterances by natural speech pauses. Applicants' Specification, Pages 11 to 12, Paragraph [0025], discloses that separating pauses between "Adam Boy" and "Charley" causes a recognizer to output two blocks "AB" and "C". The prior art of record does not disclose or reasonably suggest separating blocks of text from input utterances by natural speech pauses in combination with populating a license plate number field of a form and echoing blocks of text back to a speaker.

Regarding claim 25, the prior art of record does not disclose or reasonably suggest the combination of populating a license plate field, separating blocks of text by natural speech pauses, and audio feedback echoing. *Takebayashi et al.* discloses populating fields of a form from blocks of text for input utterances, and echoing blocks of text back to a speaker. *Cornelison* suggests an application of speech recognition to

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license plate numbers and letters. However, the combination of *Takebayashi et al.* and *Cornelison* still omits separating blocks of text from input utterances by natural speech pauses. Applicants' Specification, Pages 11 to 12, Paragraph [0025], discloses that separating pauses between "Adam Boy" and "Charley" causes a recognizer to output two blocks "AB" and "C". The prior art of record does not disclose or reasonably suggest separating blocks of text from input utterances by natural speech pauses in combination with populating a license plate number field of a form and audio feedback echoing.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

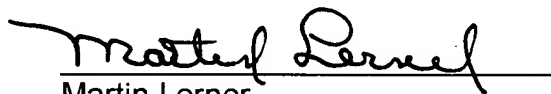
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Martin Lerner whose telephone number is (571) 272-7608. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM Monday to Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on (571) 272-7602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ML
7/11/05


Martin Lerner
Examiner
Group Art Unit 2654